

Message Text

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44

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07

FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03

SP-02 CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 NSC-05 SS-15

STR-04 CEA-01 IO-13 PC-01 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 L-03

PA-01 PRS-01 /113 W

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R 161816Z NOV 76

FM AMEMBASSY DAKAR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7280

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY ACCRA

AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

AMEMBASSY COTONOU

AMEMBASSY FREETOWN

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

AMEMBASSY LOME

AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

AMEMBASSY BANJUL

AMEMBASSY BISSAU

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE DAKAR 7555

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ECIN, XY, SG

SUBJECT: SENEGAL ENDORSES ECOWAS BUT REMAINS PREOCCUPIED WITH

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NIGERIAN PREPONDERANCE IN COMMUNITY

REF: LOME 2502

1. AFTER 18-MONTH DELAY IN RATIFYING LAGOS ECOWAS TREATY ON GROUNDS THAT ASSOCIATED PROTOCOLS WERE NOT YET DRAWN UP, SENEGALESE NOW APPEAR CONVINCED THAT THEY HAVE GAINED SOME CONCESSIONS AND, IN ANY CASE, CANNOT AFFORD TO BE LEFT OUT OF NIGERIAN-TOGOLESE SPONSORED INITIATIVE, AS MANIFESTED BY PRESIDENT SENGHOR'S PARTICIPATION (HOWEVER UNENTHUSIASTIC IT MAY HAVE BEEN; SEE REFTEL) IN NOV. 3-6 LOME SUMMIT.

2. PRESIDENT SENGHOR RETURNED TO DAKAR ASSERTING THAT "WE HAVE DONE GOOD WORK" AND EXTOLLING MERITS OF "DYNAMIC COMPROMISE." HE TOLD NOV. 9 CABINET MEETING THAT SUMMIT RESULTS WERE "POSITIVE, TAKEN TOGETHER." HE SAID, "THRE TREATY IS GOOD," BUT HE LOOKED FORWARD TO "IMPROVING" IT BY THE ADHESION OF CENTRAL AFRICAN STATES, ALL OF WHICH HE ASSERTED WERE INTERESTED IN PRINCIPLE IN JOINING ECOWAS. THIS, OF COURSE, REFLECTS LONGSTANDING SENEGALESE IDEA BORN OF CONCERN OVER NIGERIAN PREPONDERANCE WITHIN COMMUNITY.

3. SENEGALESE MINISTER OF FINANCE BABACAR BA TOLD AMBASSADOR IN NOV. 9 CONVERSATION THAT SENEGAL WAS SATISFIED WITH ECOWAS ARRANGEMENTS BECAUSE IT FELT THAT OTHER COUNTRIES HAD MADE CONCESSIONS GOS CONSIDERED IMPORTANT. HE SAID PREPARATIONS WERE BEING MADE TO TAKE MATTER BEFORE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY FOR RATIFICATION. BA SAID IT HAD BEEN MADE CLEAR THAT CENTRAL AFRICAN COUNTRIES COULD ADHERE TO ECOWAS, NOTING THAT "CENTRAL AFRICA" EXTENDED AS FAR AS LUANDA. BA INDICATED THAT ANOTHER POINT OF IMPORTANCE TO SENEGAL HAD BEEN AGREEMENT THAT THERE WOULD BE NO DISCRIMINATION AGAINST INDUSTRIES IN MEMBER STATES IN WHICH MAJORITY INTEREST WAS NOT IN HANDS OF NATIONALS OR LOCAL GOVERNMENT. HE ALSO CITED EQUALIZING FACTOR BUILT INTO ECOWAS OF COMPENSATION FOR COUNTRIES WHICH ARE DISADVANTAGED BY FREE TRADE. FINALLY, HE SAID SENEGAL HAD SUPPORTED PRINCIPLE OF EQUALITY OF CONTRIBUTIONS BY ALL MEMBER STATES.

4. EDITORIAL IN NOV. 8 GOVERNMENT-OWNED LE SOLEIL APPLAUDED RESULTS OF LOME SUMMIT BUT REPEATED POINT THAT, "FOR US SENEGALESE," ECOWAS MUST RUN "FROM NOUAKCHOTT TO KINSHASA, EVEN LUANDA." ITEM STRESSED THAT AFRICAN UNITY COULD ONLY BE REALIZED IN "COMPLETE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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EQUALITY OF THE PARTNERS, WHATEVER THE EXTENT OF THEIR TERRITORY, THEIR ECONOMIC POTENTIAL, THEIR DEMOGRAPHIC STRENGTH. IT IS NECESSARY TO SALUTE THE WILL OF NIGERIA WHICH UNDERSTOOD THESE FUNDAMENTAL IMPERATIVES...AND SUBSCRIBED TO THEM WITHOUT DIFFICULTY." MIXED SENEGALESE ATTITUDE TOWARD ECOWAS MAY BE BEST REFLECTED IN EDITORIAL'S CLOSING CALL FOR COMMUNITY TO TAKE "A PROSPECTIVE LOOK TOWARD CENTRAL AFRICA, WHICH HISTORY AS WELL AS GEOGRAPHY DOOM ("CONDAMNENT") TO BE BENEFICIARY ("PARTIE

PRENANTE") OF ECOWAS."

AGGREY

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Message Attributes

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